(c) whether huge foreign currency is likely to be earned through exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The export of readymade garments during the year 1999 was US$ 5323.5 million. This foreign exchange earned is approximately 14% of the total foreign exchange earned through exports by India. The major countries/regions of export are European Union, U.S.A., Canada, Japan, U.A.E. and Switzerland.

Satyam Committee Report

†2283. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Satyam Committee has recommended to Government to curtail the assistance being extended to the weavers under Handloom Reservation Act and Hank Yarn Obligation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that no representation of handloom industry had been nominated in the said committee;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether handloom weavers have opposed these recommendations; and

(f) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (f) An Expert Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam to, inter-alia, review the impact of the existing Textile Policy and suggest policy measures for the industry to focus on changes resulting from over-all trade policy reforms. The Committee has since submitted its report. The Committee drew its recommendations after extensive discussions with the representative of different organisations including handloom sector. Development Commissioner (Handloom) was also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

member of the Committee. The recommendations of the Committee including on handloom sector, mostly focus on measures to secure progressive increase in production and exportable surplus, removal of technological obsolescence, strengthen the competitive framework of all segments of the textile industry, removal of avoidable regulations and facilitation for orderly transition of the industry to that of a market-oriented forward looking industry. Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Report, the Government is in the process of framing the new Textile Policy.

Share of Textile Industry in Export

†2284. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total annual export from the country around 15 percent on an average constitute for the textile industry;

(b) if not, what is the estimated share of textile industry in the total export;

(c) whether Government have made any efforts to find out possibilities of increasing this share; and

(d) if so, howmuch export can additionaly increased from the country alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The textiles account for approximately 1/3rd of our total exports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In view of the possibilities of increasing our share and the measures taken by the Government from time to time boost textile exports, the indicative target for textile exports during the year 2000-2001 AD has been fixed at US$15532 million, which is approximately 20% higher than the projected export performance of 1999-2000.

Demand for Separate Handloom Policy

†2285. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 3.5 crores families of weavers are earning their livelihood through handloom industry;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.